Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: PFOR, EEWT, BEXP, BU

SUBJECT: BULGARIAN REQUEST TO OPEN COMMERCIAL OFFICES IN US

FOR EUR/EE

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR JUNE 16, AVRAMOV (MFA EIGHTH DEPARTMENT) INQUIRED ABOUT STATUS OF BULGARIAN REQUEST TO OPEN COMMERCIAL OFFICES IN CHICAGO AND SAN FRANCISCO. HE EMPHASIZED THAT HE WAS ONLY INQUIRING, NOT PRESSING, AND NOT EVEN "REMINDING" US SINCE GOB REGARDS OPENING OF SUCH OFFICES AS SERVING INTERESTS OF BOTH US AND BULGARIA, SO THAT REQUEST IS NOT FOR A FAVOR. HE SEEMED TO PLACE SOMEWHAT GREATER EMPHASIS ON SAN FRANCISCO THAN ON CHICAGO, RECALLING THAT THERE HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM US BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA WHEN (THEN) DEPUTY PREMIER POPOV HAD DISCUSSED THIS PROSPECT THERE. AVRAMOV SAID GOB WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING IF THERE ARE ANY OBSTACLES. HE THOUGHT THAT THEME OF US PAVILION AT PLOVDIV FAIR INDICATED DIRECTION IN WHICH US TRADE WITH BULGARIA MIGHT EXPAND IN THE NEAR TERM, BUT THAT LOCA-TION OF KAISER INDUSTRIES IN THE SAN FRANCISCO AREA WAS ALSO RELEVANT.

2. WE WOULD APPRECIATE INDICATION WHERE THIS MATTER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STANDS. WITH SO LITTLE MOVEMENT IN US-BULGARIAN RELATIONS

IN ABSENCE OF A TRADE AGREEMENT, APPROVAL TO OPEN TRADE
OFFICES WOULD IN OUR JUDGMENT SIGNIFICANTLY CONTRIBUTE
TO US EXPORTS.
HERZ

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Message Attributes

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